

# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application  
by email to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
by mail or in person to:  
Office of the City Auditor  
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

10304

*Application Period:  
January 18, 2013  
through  
February 22, 2013*





**TRAVIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR  
VOTER REGISTRATION DIVISION**

5501 Airport Blvd. PO Box 1748 Austin, TX 78767-1748

**Tel:** (512) 854-9473 **Fax:** (512) 854-4840

**Website:** [www.traviscountytax.org](http://www.traviscountytax.org) **Email:** [Tax\\_Office@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Tax_Office@co.travis.tx.us)

**VOTING HISTORY REQUEST FORM**

You may submit this form by fax or email or by mail. Contact us if questions (512) 854-9473.

*To be completed by Applicant. Please use Black ink on all required fields.*

**NAME:** Helen Benner Johnson

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 08/26/1939

**VUID:** 1139172315

**EMAIL OR FAX NUMBER:** j.helen@att.net

**SIGNATURE:** Helen Benner Johnson **DATE:** 1/22/13

*To be completed by Tax Office Staff:*

**VOTED IN THE FOLLOWING CITY OF AUSTIN ELECTION(S):**

General 11/6/12

Joint Runoff 6/18/11

General 11/2/10

Joint General 5/12/12

Joint Ele 5/14/11

General 11/4/08

Joint Elec 5/10/08

Regina Whiteside

Signature of Deputy Voter Registrar

Joint Elec 5/13/06



APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Johnson Helen Benner  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1139172315

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

5810 Charles Schreiner Trail Austin TX 78749  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-288-5531 (home) 512-680-6823 (cell)

Contact Email Address: j.helen@att.net

Spouse's Name: N/A  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-20A11:31 RCV



**Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).**

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
  
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
  
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
  
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
  
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No





**Conflicts of Interest**

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

<b>Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:</b>	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:</b>	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>In the last City Election did you or your spouse:</b>	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



## Personal Background Information

- Ethnicity: White
- Race: Anglo
- Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)  
☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☒ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)  
☒ High School Diploma or GED  
☐ Some College (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Associate's Degree (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ Bachelor's Degree (major Public Adm)  
☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject \_\_\_\_\_)

## Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

Throughout my working career, I have had the opportunity to work in public service in several responsible and engaging endeavors. After seventeen years at the Austin Fire Department, I received a Governor's appointment to the position of Firefighter's Pension Commissioner for the State of Texas. During my ten years as Commissioner, having exemplary analytical skills were an essential part of that position. As the head of a State agency, I developed, defended, and directed the agency budget; appeared before House and Senate Committees developing and presenting legislation as it related to the firefighters in the State of Texas and specially within the Pension System. As Commissioner, I also served as the Administrative Hearings Judge for the Agency to hear all grievances and protests from firefighters as it related to their pension eligibility and benefits.



Please describe your ability to be impartial.

My most recent involvement with the ability to be impartial was having served for six years (maximum appointment time) on the Travis County Appraisal Review Board. The Board listens to protests from Travis County citizens as it relates to property values. The most important part of that job is to always be impartial and unbiased. I served as the Chair of the Travis ARB during the 2012 Protest Season and spent a great deal of time leading and directing the training for other ARB members with an emphasis always on impartiality. My ten years as State Firefighters Pension Commissioner and nine years as Executive Director of the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association, provided many opportunities to hone the skills of addressing projects and plans with an open mind and impartiality. However, I believe that serving on the ARB from 2007-2012, gave me an unusually in-depth day-to-day interaction on the role of impartiality, especially as it relates to open government. I believe I have a great deal of expertise in this particular area.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

As a native Austinite (4th generation), it has always been my dream and desire to have single member districts in the City of Austin. The passage of the 10-1 option provides a great opportunity for the citizens of the City of Austin to have a more positive approach to the election of City Council Members. The size of our city, the diversity in our communities, and the myriad of issues applicable to different areas of our City, makes this new opportunity to develop the 10-1 scenario of the utmost importance for now and into the future, as we continue to move forward. It will open the door of service to many more people in our community who believe that the magnitude of running an at-large campaign simply closes the door to many people who would otherwise wish to run for public office. The 10-1 option will lessen the cost of running for City Council by a substantial amount of money. The process must be done in an open manner with leadership that has nothing but the good of the project in mind,



Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

My love for this City is second to none. My roots go deep and I would consider it a distinct honor to be able to use the lessons I've learned during my career to this endeavor. I'm a team player, do not seek glory for myself....simply want to do whatever job I'm charged with and do it the best of my ability. I feel very strongly about the importance of the work that this Commission will undertake. The work needs to come from people who have a passion for the task and a love for the community. I will bring both to the table.





DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.



Helen Benner Johnson

Signature of Applicant

1/22/2013

Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.



FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY  
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN  
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER  
AT [WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE)

You must submit an electronic application to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

**Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013**

### DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
  - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
    - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
    - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
    - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.



GLOSSARY

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).



## Johnson, Patrick

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**From:** Helen Johnson <j.helen@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 8:15 AM  
**To:** District Applications  
**Subject:** Application Clarification

I have a current application with the City for the 10-1 Commission and have been asked to clarify a position I held in State Government.

I was appointed Firefighters Pension Commissioner (Head of State Agency) originally by Governor William Clements in 1987 and subsequently reappointed by Governor Ann Richards and Governor George W. Bush. I held the position and retired from that position in 1997 with ten years of service. A point of clarification, my name was Helen Campbell at that time...not Johnson.

Should you need further clarification, please advise.

Thank You

Helen Benner Johnson

